

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims without prejudice, as follows and consider the subsequent remarks/arguments. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

~~Claims 19-69 (Canceled).~~

70. A method for a first business entity to provide installation management in a network-based supply chain framework between at least two other independent business entities such as service providers, vendors, resellers, manufacturers and the like, comprising:

causing a first business entity using a network to:

- (a) receive information including information relating to a service provided by a service provider from the service provider;
- (b) receive information including information relating to manufacturer offerings by a manufacturer from the manufacturer;
- (c) use the information provided by the service provider and the manufacturer to match the service to the offerings; and
- (d) use the service and manufacturer offerings information to manage installations.

71. A method as recited in claim 70, further comprising the first business entity using the network to:

manage collaboration between the matched service provider and the manufacturer by facilitating the transmitting of information between the matched service provider and the manufacturer.

72. A method as recited in claim 71, further comprising the first business entity using the network to:

provide a collaborative planning tool for managing the collaboration between the matched service provider and the manufacturer.

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73. A method as recited in claim 70, further comprising the first business entity using the network to:

facilitate milestone-based project planning between the matched service provider and the manufacturer.

74. A method as recited in claim 70, further comprising the first business entity using the network to:

display the manufacturer offerings of the matched manufacturer to the matched service provider using the network, and display the services provided by the matched service provider to the matched manufacturer.

75. A method as recited in claim 70, wherein the information of the manufacturer includes information relating to the availability of the manufacturer offerings.

76. A method as recited in claim 75 further comprising the first business entity using the network to:

notify the service provider of the availability of the manufacturer offerings that match a service installation.

77. A method as recited in claim 72 for milestone-based project planning during installation management in a network-based supply chain environment, further comprising:

- (a) displaying on a display a pictorial representation of an existing service including a plurality of components;
- (b) presenting on the display a first set of components that are to be delivered for an installation in a first phase by indicia coding the first set; and
- (c) presenting on the display a second set of components of the installation that are to be delivered for the installation in a second phase by indicia coding the second set in a manner unique with respect to the indicia coding of the first set.

78. A method as recited in claim 77, further comprising:

presenting a legend which defines the indicia coding with respect to the phases of delivery of the components.

79. A method as recited in claim 77, wherein the components of the existing service are selected from the group of components including security services, network services, web services, client services, integration capabilities, data services, directory services, management services, operation services, and developer services.

80. A method as recited in claim 77, wherein the components of the existing service are selected from the group of components including commerce-related services, content-related services, administration-related services, customer-related services, and education-related services.

81. A method as recited in claim 77, wherein the indicia coding is selected from the group of indicia coding including texture coding, color coding, and shading coding.

82. A method as recited in claim 70 for interacting with a client user in the network-based environment during installation management in order to enhance visibility, further comprising:

- (a) identifying a client user;
- (b) collecting information about the client user, wherein the information relates to the installation of a service;
- (c) building a profile of the client user based on the collected information;
- (d) managing a plurality of different contents;
- (e) analyzing the profile and the contents in order to match attributes of the profile of the user and attributes of the contents;
- (f) selecting the contents which have attributes that match the attributes of the profile of the client user; and
- (g) delivering the selected contents to the client user.

83. A method as recited in claim 82, further comprising analyzing the profile in real time.

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84. A method as recited in claim 82, further comprising:

identifying a time when the user last viewed the contents, and indicating portions of the contents that have been modified or added since the time when the user last viewed the contents.

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85. A method as recited in claim 82, further including the user by using a cookie, receiving user input, and digital certificates.

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86. A method as recited in claim 82, further comprising:

allowing the user to rate the contents.
